

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

October 25, 2021

4:00 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Tripp, *Chairman*
Liz Seman, *Vice-Chairman*
Ennis Fant
Willis Meadows
Stan Tzouvelekas

Committee Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Lynn Ballard, *Council District 26*
Xanthene Norris, *Council District 23*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Mark Tollison, *County Attorney*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Ruth Parris, *Management and Budget*
Wesley Crum, *Attorney, J. Wesley Crum III, P.A.*
Jim Price, *Attorney, Nexsen Pruitt*
Sharon Tchoner, *Violins of Hope South Carolina*

Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Seman

Invocation:

Councilor Ennis Fant

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Meadows moved to approve the minutes of the Special Called Finance Committee Meeting of October 13, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Grant – 2021 VOCA Grant

Ms. Parris stated the total grant request was \$44,202. The State portion was \$35,362, and the County match was \$8,840. The Solicitor's office would use the grant to fund a portion of the salary for one (1) Victim Advocate position. Matching funds would come from budgeted funds of the General Fund Matching Grant Account.

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved to approve the 2021 VOCA Grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Violins of Hope

Mr. Hansley stated Committee of the Whole asked the Finance Committee to explore available funding to support a possible sponsorship in the range of \$30,000 to \$100,000 for the Violins of Hope South Carolina Program. Funds were available in the Local Accommodations Tax account to support a community-based sponsorship. Three (3) representatives from Violins of Hope were present to answer questions.

Ms. Tchoner stated they had the opportunity to bring to Greenville 60 violins that survived the Holocaust during WW II and were restored by violin makers in Israel. It would be an opportunity to bring communities together and collaborate with local musicians. Her organization would be very thankful for any support granted to make this a reality.

Councilor Meadows questioned the wide spread range of \$30,000 to \$100,000.

Ms. Tchoner stated there were different levels. A grant of \$30,000 would bring the violins and 8 soloists; \$50,000 would add local choirs and instrumentalists and present excerpts of the oratorio that depicted the rescue all Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust; \$100,000 would bring the entire oratorio of 250 musicians on stage, including a full symphony orchestra of 61 members, children and adult choirs, soloists and a narrator. The level of sponsorship would affect the size of venue to procure.

Chairman Tripp asked if other municipalities had been contacted.

Ms. Tchoner stated she applied to the City of Greenville but was informed that they had missed their deadline (March).

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman felt this was a worthy and unique project, therefore, she moved to approve the \$30,000 request.

Chairman Tripp stated some Council Members were willing to supplement the \$30,000 through their Community Projects accounts. He had also spoken to officials with the City of Mauldin and they were possibly willing to sponsor the event as well. Mr. Tripp suggested approving the \$30,000 and continue to work outside of Council to increase the amount.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked where the money would come from.

Mr. Hansley stated the funds were available in the Local Accommodations Tax account to support a community-based sponsorship.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

Item (6) Community Project Application – Belmont Fire Department: Smoke Detectors

Mr. Hansley stated Councilor Fant had submitted an application to provide \$1,500 to the Belmont Fire Department to be used to purchase smoke detectors. The smoke detectors would be given to and installed for citizens in need within the district. The request complied with County Council's Community Project policy.

Councilor Fant stated after talking with Chief Segars, the funds would provide and install 300 smoke detectors.

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved approval of the application.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (7) Bosch Rexroth

Kevin Landmesser stated the proposed ordinance and fee agreement were in compliance and agreement with the inducement agreement that was approved in August of 2021.

Action: Councilor Meadows moved approval of the ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) Fox Hill Industrial Park

Kevin Landmesser stated the proposed ordinance and fee agreement were in compliance and agreement with the inducement agreement that was approved in August of 2020. There was a legal/structural change, which would be beneficial to the County when negotiating for future projects. The original structure of the special source revenue credit would go back to the developer to help cover the cost of widening Highway 418. In addition, a \$300,000 grant from the State of SC for the widening of the road was passed on. Originally, the special source revenue credit would come from all the buildings that were put into the park. With the new request, it would only go against one of the buildings. As new buildings were brought online, it would be much easier to negotiate, not being under the special source revenue credit from the original agreement.

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved approval of the ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Executive Session

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved to go into Executive Session for the discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body as it relates to Project Ott, Project Milliken, and Project Sticky.

Motion carried unanimously and the Committee on Finance entered Executive Session at 4:12 p.m.

Reconvened

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Committee on Finance was out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during that session. The Committee on Finance meeting reconvened at 5:10 p.m.

Item (10) Project Ott

Action: Chairman Tripp stated that the understanding was not to approve the matter; however, staff wanted direction on whether documents should be drafted.

Councilor Meadows stated the project was in his district and included a section of land that had been looked at for the past 10 to 14 years. He felt this was a good project but he wanted to look at the data and what the obligations of the developer were, as well as the time line.

Mr. Tollison stated that assistance would be given by GADC to work with the developer and his attorney. The information would be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Action: Mr. Meadows moved to hold the project for further information and clarification.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

Item (11) Project Milliken

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved approval of Project Milliken.

Motion Carried unanimously.

Item (12) Project Sticky

Action: Councilor Meadows moved approval of Project Sticky.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (13) Adjournment

Action: Vice-Chairman Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica M. Stone
Deputy Clerk to Council